

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicants have amended claim 5 to further limit the “calcium-containing compound” and “film-forming base agent.” Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, e.g., original claims 6, 8, and 10 (all cancelled); at page 4, lines 17-18; at page 5, lines 21-22; and at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 16. Applicants have also cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. No new matter is introduced.

Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14-18 will therefore be pending and under examination upon entry of the proposed amendments.

Claim objection

Claim 20 is objected to due to lack of a period at the end of the claim. This objection is moot in view of the cancellation of this claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9, 14-17, 19, and 20 are rejected as being anticipated by Kawata *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,798,054) (hereafter “Kawata”). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. Therefore, only claims 5, 7, and 14-17 remain rejected over Kawata.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to further limit the “calcium-containing compound” and to incorporate the limitations of claims 8 and 10. Claim 5 as presently amended requires that “the calcium-containing compound is a water soluble calcium salt and the film-forming base agent is a water-soluble cellulose base polymer.”

Applicants would like to point out that claim 10, which recites that “the film-forming base agent is a cellulose base polymer,” is not listed among the claims that were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b). Thus, the rejection over Kawata has been met by amending claim 5 to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. More specifically, claim 5 as presently amended is directed to a film-forming composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-

soluble cellulose base polymer. In contrast, Kawata does not disclose a composition containing water-soluble cellulose base polymer used for forming a film. Because Kawata does not disclose a composition meeting all the limitations of claim 5, this reference does not anticipate claim 5. Since claims 7 and 14-17 depend from claim 5, they also are not anticipated by Kawata. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw this ground for rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-20 are rejected as being anticipated by Iwata *et al.* (WO 01/40182) (hereafter "Iwata"). As noted above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. Therefore, only claims 5, 7, and 15-17 remain rejected over Iwata.

Claim 5 as presently amended is directed to a film-forming composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-soluble cellulose base polymer.

In contrast, nowhere does Iwata disclose a composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-soluble cellulose base polymer, which can be formulated for forming a film. As Iwata does not disclose a composition meeting all the limitations of claim 5, Iwata does not anticipate claim 5 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 7 and 15-17). Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 5, 7, 11, and 14-18 are in condition for allowance.

The fee for the One –Month Extension is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 19331-002US1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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